

National Aeronautics and Space Administration  
Headquarters  
Washington, DC 20546-0001



January 8, 2007

Reply to Attn of:

General Law Practice Group

TO: Distribution

FROM: Alternate Designated Agency Ethics Official

SUBJECT: Determination Regarding Attendance at Events Related to the American Meteorological Society Meeting, January 14 – January 18, 2007

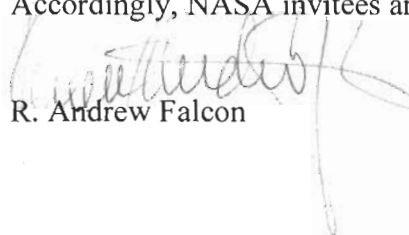
On January 15, 2007, representatives from NASA have been invited to attend a reception in conjunction with the American Meteorological Society (AMS) 87th Annual Meeting in San Antonio, Texas. Five industry teammates from GOES-R, including the Boeing Co., Harris Corp., Ball Aerospace, Carr Astronautics, and Atmospheric and Environmental Research, Inc., will sponsor the evening reception at the Sunset Station. The AMS meeting will be held at the H.B. Gonzalez Convention Center from January 14 to 18, 2007.

The Geostationary Operational Environmental Satellite Program (GOES) is a joint effort of NASA and the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA). All AMS participants are invited and approximately 600-700 people are expected to attend. The maximum benefit per employee would be approximately \$55. Attendees will include members of the aerospace industry, government, and academia.

I find that this event meets the requirements of a "widely attended gathering" as defined in 5 CFR § 2635.204(g). I further determine that there is an Agency interest in having NASA personnel attend the event because it will allow individuals from a broad spectrum of industry and government to exchange knowledge and ideas on meteorological technology and scientific advancements. Accordingly, NASA employees whose duties do not substantially affect the event sponsors may accept an invitation for free attendance to the event for themselves and their spouses or guests.

NASA employees whose duties may substantially affect the event sponsors, such as by way of procurement duties, should seek an individual determination pursuant to 5 CFR § 2635.204(g)(3)(i) regarding participation in this event from their local ethics counselor.

Accordingly, NASA invitees and their spouses or guests may attend this event without charge.

  
R. Andrew Falcon